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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Queen Margrethe II of Denmark paid a visit to the Library Feb. 21. She was interested in Dr. Billington's explanation of the meaning of Library of Congress cataloging in publication data at the front of a book. Story on page 75. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Feature Story: The holdings of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division rank among the world's finest. Also: the division's reading room tells its own story. 83

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The Library Greets a Royal Danish Visitor

Many foreign dignitaries come to visit the Library. Some are more polite than curious.

But that was not the case on the morning of Feb. 21, when Queen Margrethe II of Denmark came to view some of LC's treasures in the Librarian's suite. The queen was on an official state visit to Washington, and she asked her aides to make time in her busy schedule for a trip to the Madison Building. She is a strong booster of libraries in Denmark.

As far as her majesty was concerned, everything went without a hitch, although her arrival, some 20 minutes earlier than expected, caused a flurry of staff activity.

Treasures from the Library's music, rare book, manuscript and map collections were being put in place in the Librarian's conference room minutes before her arrival. Dr. Billington greeted the queen, who was dressed in a two-piece fuchsia coat-dress and hat with black feather, and he escorted the monarch and her party to his sixth floor conference room.

Library specialists stood by to explain the rare books, maps, scores and manuscripts. From then on, all went smoothly.

The Danes saw, among other things, a 1659 map depicting the location of the observatory of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546–1601). Her majesty was amused by an American 1857 topographical map of Lewis County, N.Y., showing Denmark Township and the villages of Copenhagen and Denmark.

She also saw the papers of another Dane, those of journalist and reformer Jacob Riis (1849–1914).

From the George Washington papers there was a Nov. 29, 1778, letter from Christian Febiger to Gen. Washington, under whom he had served throughout the American Revolution. Febiger, as a brigadier general, was the highest-ranking Danish-American to serve the cause.

Queen Margrethe was most interested in a modern book of calligraphy that Peter Van Wingen of Rare Books showed her as the Librarian looked on. She thought its binding was "too clever by half." *Photo by Reid Baker*

From the Music Division there were the original manuscripts of the full scores to George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Mozart's *String Quartet in C, K. 515.*

The well-educated queen has studied history, political science and economics. But her favorite subject is archaeology, and she has often said that if she could have chosen her profession she would have become an archaeologist.

But Queen Margrethe could also probably support herself as an artist. She has done a series of illustrations for J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and designed the costumes and sets for a production of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale *The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep.*

It was thus appropriate that Rare Book and Special Collections should show the queen the original manuscript for Andersen's *The Great Serpent* of 1871. She also saw a copy of the author's *Eventyr og Historier* from 1873, which was presented to the Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna Dagman, daughter of Christian IX of Denmark, who was the wife of Czar Alexander and the mother of Czar Nicholas II.

But what seemed to capture the queen's fancy most was not something antique but a book from 1989: the original manuscript of Suzanne Moore's *ABCDARY,* an illuminated alphabetical collection of one of America's finest young calligraphers. She thought the lavishly illustrated pages were "fascinating" and found the abstract handmade binding "too clever by half."

Those librarians who welcomed the queen had no trouble holding her interest. She paid close attention and asked pointed questions. Though she had arrived early, she lingered until she had to leave for lunch at the National Press Club. All were impressed.

Yellow Ribbons:
Ties with Tradition

If folklore were an exact science, LC's American Folklife Center could have predicted the blizzard of inquiries about the history of yellow ribbons now being displayed everywhere in America in support of our troops in the Gulf.

David Kelly of the Library's General Reference Reading Room made the rounds of the various public reference units to see if anyone knew anything about the origin of a yellow ribbon as a symbol. He drew a blank everywhere except in the Archive of Folk Song. There he found a file folder containing a letter about the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," and a certain skeptical willingness to study the matter further. Not the stuff of which doctoral dissertations are made, to be sure, but enough to certify the Archive as the Library's single voice on the matter.

For the next two weeks the calls poured in and the reference staff of the Manuscript Division, General Reference Reading Room, Music Division and Public Affairs Office directed them to the Archive of Folk Song.

The basic question that the reporters had in mind was how the symbol came into being. Many callers had ideas of their own on the subject. Some had interviewed the authors of relevant popular songs. Others had spoken to historians of the Civil War. Still others had talked with the wives of hostages in Iran in 1980–81. Reporters often called the Archive and then called back later with a new hypothesis, a new historical fact or a new lead to a book reference. Very quickly a kind of collegial feeling grew up between the Archive and some of the more persistent researchers. We found ourselves functioning not so much as authorities on the subject as members of an informal team of harried investigators.

How did the yellow ribbon symbol become associated with the hostages in Iran and now with the men and women in the Persian Gulf?

On the CBS news broadcast of Jan. 28, 1981, Penelope Laingen, wife of Bruce Laingen, U.S. chargé d'affaires in Tehran, was shown outside her home in Bethesda, Md. "It just came to me," she said, "to give people something to do, rather than throw dog food at Iranians. I said, 'Why don't they tie a yellow ribbon around an old oak tree.' That's how it started."

Kay Eisinger of the Public Affairs Office places a yellow ribbon around the trunk of a potted plant near her workstation. *Photo by Alex Pohl*

Mrs. Laingen's source of inspiration was a popular song by Irwin Levine and L. "Larry" Russell Brown, copyrighted in 1972 as "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree." Recorded by some 30 different vocalists in the late 1970s, it sold millions of copies. The hit version was recorded in 1973 by the popular vocal group Dawn featuring Tony Orlando.

The song sketches the story of a convict riding the bus homeward after three years in prison. He tells the bus driver that he has written to his sweetheart asking her to tie a yellow ribbon on a roadside oak tree if she will have him back. The

driver relates the story to other passengers and as the bus nears the tree everyone is on the edge of his seat. As the tree comes into view, the convict, unable to bear the sight should there be no ribbon in the tree's branches, hides his eyes. Then a cheer goes up and he looks to see that, in fact, the tree is covered with yellow ribbons.

The authors of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" have been asked frequently about the origin of their song. "Larry had heard the story in the Army," said Mr. Levine in an interview in *The Washington Post* Jan. 17, 1981. "I liked it, so we tried it. We wrote it and put it on a cassette. But then we didn't like it—it just didn't work—so we threw it away. I wish I would have kept it so I could compare it to the other one, but I recorded over it." But three weeks later, Mr. Levine said the duo's song idea font had run dry, so they decided to take a second stab at "Yellow Ribbon." "They rewrote it, rewrote the music, and were pleased," said *The Post*.

In the Army story, according to Mr. Brown, the symbol was a "white kerchief," but "white" would not fit into the melody Mr. Levine and Mr. Brown had composed.

Post staff writer Saundra Saperstein had also talked with Mr. Levine, and her story of Jan. 27 quotes him as saying that they made the ribbons yellow because the color seemed "musical and romantic."

At least one person has come forward to challenge the origins that Mr. Levine and Mr. Brown claim for their song. On Oct. 14, 1971, *New York Post* writer Pete Hamill published in a syndicated column a story based on the returning prisoner theme. The convict had been away for four years rather than three and he tells his story not to the bus driver, but to friendly college students on their annual migration to the Fort Lauderdale beaches. Otherwise the story is much like that given in the popular song.

Mr. Hamill sued the songwriters, whose attorneys turned to University of Pennsylvania folklorist Kenneth S. Goldstein for assistance. Mr. Goldstein, together with his student Steven Czick, looked for prior versions of the story that would invalidate Mr. Hamill's claim to authorship. They found several such examples, and the suit was dropped.

When *Reader's Digest* in January 1972 printed a condensed version of the Hamill column, "Going Home," he introduced it with the following headnote:

In an old Army story, according to one of the composers of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," the ribbon was a "white kerchief," but "white" would not fit into the melody the composers had written.

"I first heard this story a few years ago from a girl I had met in New York's Greenwich Village. The girl told me that she had been one of the participants. Since then, others to whom I have related the tale have said that they had read a version of it in some forgotten book, or had been told it by an acquaintance who said that it actually happened to a friend. Probably the story is one of these mysterious bits of folklore that emerge from the national subconscious to be told anew in one form or another. The cast of characters shifts, the message endures. I like to think that it *did* happen, somewhere, sometime."

To summarize the ground covered thus far: it appears that the *plot* of the song that inspired Penny Laingen is drawn from modern urban oral tradition, while the choice of the yellow ribbon as *symbol* is conditioned by the requirements of versification. But beyond these requirements, there remains another possible source for Mr. Levine and Mr. Brown's adoption of the yellow ribbon:

In 1949 Argosy Pictures released a motion picture starring John Wayne and Joanne Dru called "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." The picture was popular and the theme song, "(Round Her Neck) She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," became a hit. The composers were M. Ottner and Leroy Parker. Not surprisingly, their lyrics make reference to the characters and events in the film. But, in one form or another, this song long predates the movie. It has been registered for copyright a number of times, the earliest claim for it being the composition of George A. Norton in 1917.

Norton gave as his title "Round Her Neck She Wears a Yeller Ribbon (For Her Lover Who Is Fur Away)." It has been reported as a college song in the 1920s and 1930s, where it underwent much variation, both in its symbology and in suitability for public expression. Frank Lynn's "Songs for Swingin' Housemothers" (San Francisco: Fearon Publishers, 1963) provides a verse typical of the college type:

"Around her knee, she wore a purple garter/She wore it in the springtime, and in the month of May,/And if you asked her why the hell she wore it,/She wore it for her Williams man who's far, far away."

Other emblematic appurtenances of the young lady include a baby carriage and a shotgun-wielding father. The color of her ribbon or garter could be varied in order to implicate a student of an appropriate college: crimson for Harvard, orange for Princeton, and so on. It was a slightly refined version from this college tradition, rather than the movie theme song, that became a great favorite on the early 1960s television show "Sing Along with Mitch." It appears on pages 22 and 24 of the *Sing Along with Mitch Songbook* (New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1961), where an accompanying headnote describes it as an "old army marching song (based on a traditional theme)." Although the

(Cont. on p. 78)

Yellow Ribbons *(Cont. from p. 77)* second verse is essentially of the "purple garter" type, the first verse begins "Around her neck, she wore a yellow ribbon."

It seems likely that Mitch Miller's popular printing a decade after the motion picture helped to foster the perhaps mistaken idea that wearing a yellow ribbon as a token of remembrance was a custom of the Civil War era. Letters expressing personal recollections and family stories of ribbons being displayed by wives and sweethearts of men in the U.S. Cavalry have reached the Archive of Folk Song. It is curious, however, that the half dozen anthologies of Civil War songs in our reading room do not offer "Round Her Neck" as a popular song.

Furthermore, Civil War historian Shelby Foote was quizzed on the subject but could not recall any reference to the practice of wearing yellow ribbons (*The Washington Post*, Jan. 27, 1981). Although it is perfectly plausible that the families of the Union army troops did adopt such a token, prudent historiography would demand evidence from a diary, photograph or source contemporary to the war. So far, no such evidence has come to our attention, and we must remain open to the possibility that the distant recollections of the Civil War have been grafted onto the symbolism of a much later popular motion picture.

Whether Mr. Levine and Mr. Brown were consciously or unconsciously influenced by "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" is not known. But if they were, it would be worth noting that the song that influenced them has a pedigree in tradition that stretches far beyond the college environment of the 1920s. In a *History of Music in America* (New York: Random House, 1948), Sigmund Spaeth writes that a similar song was heard in minstrel shows in this country around 1838:

About this time there appeared from the press of George Endicott ("Lithographer, Pianofortes, Music") a strange dialect song called "All Round My Hat," which is unquestionably the ancestor of the later "(Round Her Neck) She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," with all its variants and imitations. The original, "written by J. Ansell, Esq." (John Hansell) and "composed and arranged by John Valentine," "as sung by Jack Reeve, with the most Unbounded Applause," pictures an English vegetable peddler, with an overloaded little donkey, pictorially on the cover and almost as vividly in the text. The chorus, with its familiar close, runs as follows:

"All round my hat, I vears a green willow,/All round my hat, for 12 month and a day;/If hanyone should hax, the reason vy I vears it,/Tell them that my true love is far, far away."

The Philadelphia printing is evidently copied from a British source. In his annotation of "All Round My Cap" in the English *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (vol. 8, no. 34, 1930), A. Martin Freeman describes the above chorus as "the sole relic of an earlier song, seized up, together with its engaging tune, to provide sport in the music-halls and be whistled by every errand-boy, for it became one of the most popular street songs of a hundred years ago" (the 1830s).

That "earlier song" to which Mr. Freeman alludes can be traced almost three centuries further back in English tradition. It was printed in Thomas Proctor's *Gorgeous Gallery of Gallant Inventions*, published in 1578 (pages 83 to 86 in the 1926 Harvard University Press printing edited by Hyden E. Rollins), and Shakespeare has Desdemona refer to it as an old song (*Othello*, Act IV, Scene 3).

In its long descent from Tudor lyric to Cockney ballad to American minstrel ditty to ribald college song to motion picture theme to popular recording, it may be seen that green willows have faded into garters and ribbons of every hue and that the symbol of constancy in love has been anything but constant itself. Peter Kennedy remarks in his *Folksongs of Britain and Ireland* (London: Cassell, 1975):

"Wearing a flower or, as in 'All Round My Hat,' a green willow, were demonstrative symbols of faithfulness and chastity, and many of our love songs make use of the symbols of flowers and trees. Over the years the early significances have been forgotten and the symbols have sometimes changed their meanings. Green laurel has stood for young love, or fickleness, but also faithfulness, and has even been associated with Irish political loyalty."

In that flickering light, the transformation of a willow garland into a yellow ribbon seems natural enough. At the same time, it would be difficult to argue on the basis of evidence in the history of the song that the yellow ribbon has any claim to being a traditional symbol.

Folklorists who have had occasion to discuss the matter with the Archive staff have been bothered by two decidedly *un*traditional aspects of the yellow ribbon. First, the color seems expressly contrary to tradition. We have already noted that yellow seems to have appeared in the two popular songs that bear on this for reasons of scansion (the analysis of verse to show its meter) rather than to evoke ancient associations. The discussion of color symbolism in Charles Platt's *Popular Superstitions* (London: H. Jenkins, 1925) suggests that white might have been a more appropriate choice, and indeed, in at least two versions of the returning prisoner story taken from oral tradition the symbol is a white ribbon or kerchief.

The second aspect that makes folklorists reluctant to view this as a traditional expression is the matter of structural inversion. In the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon . . ." the theme is that of a returning prodigal begging forgiveness—and receiving it. The former hostages, however, returned home as heroes.

The Library During Wartime:
The Vietnam War

Major American involvement in Vietnam (1965–73) coincided with both economic prosperity and a "Cultural Revolution" on the homefront, as in Western Europe, and much turmoil and division.

"Establishment" norms were questioned and protested. Vietnam, with its mixed reviews even during the early years of the conflict, underlined a new polarity in feeling and opinion.

The years 1964–1973 were to herald an era of change for the Library of Congress as well. While staffers served as members of military reserve units and a number were called to active service, the war itself became increasingly controversial.

Meanwhile institutional change was in the air: data processing made its debut at LC, and "computerese" was added to the myriad confusing tongues and acronyms already in use. The ground for the Kennedy Center was dedicated in 1964, but seemed, like the Madison Building—long in planning and seemingly longer in construction—only an illusory gleam in some planner's eye.

With many divisions—Copyright, Map, Card, Training (to name only a few)—relocated or relocating in "annexes" beyond Capitol Hill, the Library and its services seemed irretrievably fractured.

From brochure for the "Hair" exhibit at the Library, which was launched by the cast of the play of the same name.

The lack of such heroes on the world scene as those from the Second World War—Churchill, de Gaulle, Eisenhower—only emphasized the oddity of the Vietnam era. And the successive assassinations of U.S. leaders—John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Robert F. Kennedy—increased public anxiety. The pages of the LC *Information Bulletin* reflected the Vietnam era's issues, political and military, but there was also evidence of a social and cultural coming of age.

Reflecting new policy issues, it was in 1964 that the Library began the *Arms Control and Disarmament* bibliography, indexing articles on the subject from sources in many languages, and supported by the U.S. Arms Control Agency. Research on U.S. policies in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and a chronology of events in those countries, were provided to Congress. *(Cont. on p. 80)*

For all the journalistic interest in it, the yellow ribbon story yields few facts of the sort we would like to find on Page One. To be sure, the dates and title of the various printings can be reported with confidence, but the relevance of these publications to the spectacular expression of support for U.S. troops now evident on front doors, around trees and even in offices remains unclear.

The account given here cannot be regarded as more than preliminary—focused on the genetic relationship between the ribbon symbol and two songs that moved back and forth, as we have seen, between folk and popular culture.

It omits many suggestions and references to other, and perhaps even more interesting, lines of inquiry that have come to us from far and wide. Despite all the effort of the dozens of people who have furthered the research on the subject, the status of the yellow ribbon as a traditional symbol is still an open question. —*Gerald Parsons*

This is a reprint on the 10th anniversary of this article's original appearance in *Folklife Center News*, April 1981, volume 4, number 2.

Vietnam War *(Cont. from p. 79)*

We note articles by LC staffers:

☐ "Wartime Protection in Libraries," by Edmond L. Applebaum (in *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1969),

☐ "Human Behavior in Disaster: The Siege of Budapest," by Francis S. Wagner (in *Survival and the Bomb: Methods of Civil Defense*, 1969).

Staffer Alexander Bernson was recognized by the Army in a 1967 citation as an authority "in the field of train movements" for his service in 1964–1966.

A 125-member contingent of the Army 309th Civil Affairs Group (from Inkster, Mich.) invaded LC reading rooms in 1973, engaged in a study program to revise the Army's official handbook on Austria. Army Col. Donald Sedgwick Bussey in 1966 was named senior specialist in National Defense—for service at LC with the Legislative Reference Service. A 16mm print of the documentary film *The Guns of August*, based on Barbara Tuchman's Pulitzer Prize-winning history, was presented to Librarian of Congress L. Quincy Mumford by producer and codirector Nathan Kroll in 1965.

Notices on military histories, reference handbooks and surveys appear in the *Information Bulletin*. Here also are the notices on the deaths of staffers in armed services or of staffers' return to the Library following active duty. A 1969 article says that the LC Welfare and Recreation Association provided 53 Christmas packages to servicemen in Vietnam.

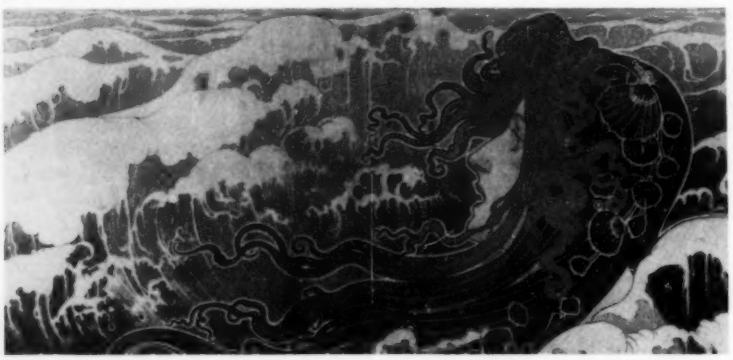
Cultural affairs took an upswing in 1968 as the American Film Institute granted the Library an initial $125,000 toward feature film preservation, and as the RKO film library the following year deposited some 740 feature films and 900 short subjects from the 1930s and the 1940s.

But the movements of the day—civil rights, antiwar, hippy, flower-child and counterculture, among others, provided rich music, literature and art (not to mention perspective). Together with events they celebrated, tragic or joyous, they mark the nationwide giant-step in awareness the Vietnam era initiated.

(An LC exhibition that toured the nation was called "Hair: A Pictorial Tribute." It featured advertisements, cartoons and portraits of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The cast of the rock-musical "Hair" of 1972, then in performance at Washington's National Theater, helped launch the exhibition.)

In contrast to the occurrences at LC during previous wars and during the current one in the Persian Gulf, the impact of the Vietnam War on Library staff largely manifested itself outside the work environment.

—*John J. Wayne*



The flower children rediscovered and celebrated the sinuous, lyrical art nouveau of the 1890s, which was derived from Japanese print styles. In September 1970, the Library presented an exhibit of some of the best examples of this movement, in "La Belle Epoque," which featured Belgian posters from the Wittamer de Camps collection. Here, "La Vague" ("The Wave") combines art nouveau and symbolist styles.

Read More About It*
The Middle East

Adult

The American Search for Mideast Peace, by Dan Tschirgi. Praeger, 1989.

The Arabs, by Peter Mansfield. Penquin Books, 1985.

The Cultural Atlas of Islam, by Ismail R. al Faruqi and Lois Lamayaal Faruqi. Macmillan, 1986.

From Beirut to Jerusalem, by Thomas L. Friedman. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1989.

Iraq, A Country Study, by the Library of Congress. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990.

People and Cultures of the Middle East, by Daniel Bates and Amal Rassam. Prentice-Hall, 1983.

The Political Language of Islam, by Bernard Lewis. University of Chicago Press, 1988.

U.S.A. and the Middle East Since World War II, by T.G. Fraser. St. Martins, 1989.

Juvenile

An Arab Family, by Roderic Dutton. Lerner, 1985.

Iraq in Pictures, edited by the Department of Geography. Lerner, 1990.

Kuwait, by Martin Mulloy. Chelsea House, 1988.

Middle East, by Antony Mason. Silver Burdett Press, 1988.

Youth in the Middle East: Voices in Despair, by David J. Abodaher. Watts, 1990.

**Provided by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.*

LC Seeks Major Automation Upgrade in FY '92

Library managers envision the use of modern technology to make the institution's vast resources of knowledge and information available to Congress and the American people—almost anywhere they are, any time they want it, as quickly as they can touch a screen or tap out a simple computer keyboard command.

First, however, the Library will have to replace and expand its aging automation systems and build electronic links from Library data bases to a nationwide network of users. To begin these tasks, the Library in its fiscal 1992 budget request (LC *Information Bulletin*, Feb. 25) asked Congress to authorize an increase of $7.6 million for a major upgrade in automation support.

"A relatively small investment in the Library of Congress will make possible the sharing of its vast resources by electronic means with libraries, schools, colleges, research institutes and business to spur creativity and productivity throughout America," Librarian James H. Billington said in an introductory budget statement. "In concert with federal, state, local and private institutions, the Library of Congress will be able to give the country an accessible knowledge base unparalleled in any other nation in the world."

The requested increase to upgrade automation is part of a fiscal 1992 budget package that totals approximately $360 million (including authority to obligate approximately $23.3 million in receipts), representing an increase of $55 million (18 percent) from fiscal 1991. About one-half of the increase ($27.3 million) will allow the Library to meet mandatory pay and price-level (inflation) increases to maintain the current effort. The other half of the increase ($27.7 million) underscores the Library's long-term goal of preparing for the national information base of the 21st century.

ITS, whose future was of major focus in the new budget. *Photo by Alex Pohl*

The Library's Information Technology Services (ITS) Directorate has asked for a $7.6 million increase from fiscal 1991 to start building the technological base required to open some of the Library's rich collections, which number more than 90 million items in more than 450 languages, to the nation through networks such as the proposed new National Research and Education Network (NREN). The added financial resources that ITS needs in fiscal 1992 include:

☐ $2.2 million for staff (15 new positions and 26 unfinanced positions) to develop new user-friendly systems providing easier access to the Library collections; to replace aging systems; and to develop Capitol Hill and national networks.

☐ $5.4 million to increase computer storage capacity; purchase up-to-date software and hardware to support new systems; and to replace "dumb" terminals with "intelligent" workstations, which provide interactive capabilities, for staff and other users.

The Library entered the information age 20 years ago, when pioneer engineers, analysts and programmers began to create information data bases and software to search them. Using these data bases, among others, researchers could find and retrieve the on-line bibliographic records that are the road maps to information in the Library's vast holdings. These old systems programs are written in computer languages that are hard to understand, very difficult to modify, and wholly incompatible with new languages and software used by modern information systems.

The number of Library information systems grew over the years, to 75 in 1980, 97 in 1985 and 123 in 1990. Today, the Library's vast electronic nervous system consists of central computers, minicomputers, microcomputers, telecommunications links and other communications systems. Central computers relay information from the institution's brain to remote workstations in the U.S. Capitol, House and Senate office buildings and Library locations throughout the Washington area; patrons using the Library's systems have access to nearly 30 million records in automated files.

In-house computers and additional files support the programs of

(Cont. on p. 82)

Library, OCLC to Begin Pilot Project

The Library and the Online Computer Library Center Inc. (OCLC) will begin a pilot project this spring in which 10 volunteer libraries will use new subject headings to enrich LC records for works of fiction.

The Library has previously been unable to access adult fiction titles by subject. Previously, the Library cataloged fiction according to author, title, publisher, place, date of publication, size and call number. Readers who liked a certain novel, for example, could look up books by the same author but not novels on the same subject or set in the same place or historical period.

Under the new guidelines, individual works of fiction will be described in terms of form or genre (such as biographical fiction, comedy films, Edwardian novels); characters (such as Lord Peter Wimsey, Little Orphan Annie); settings (such as London, Paris, Middle Earth); and topics (such as physicians, Christmas, dragons).

A subcommittee of the American Library Association's Association for Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) has been working since 1986 to create a set of guidelines that would provide subject access to individual works of fiction comparable to the subject access available to nonfiction works.

OCLC and the Library will test the feasibility of the new guidelines in the pilot project. OCLC is looking for 10 member libraries to volunteer to enrich existing LC-MARC records in the Books Format with appropriate subject headings. They must be libraries that are currently using the PRISM service, OCLC's new on-line system. OCLC libraries that participate in the Enhance Program (whether using the First System or PRISM) may also volunteer to enrich LC-MARC fiction records.

OCLC is also looking for libraries to catalog newly acquired fiction according to the new subject guidelines. Librarians who are interested in volunteering should call Carol Davis at (800) 848-5878 (U.S.), (800) 848-8286 (Ohio) or (614) 764-6157 (other).

OCLC will provide training in the form of written guidelines for the volunteer libraries. In addition, OCLC will provide subject authority work as it is needed.

Automation *(Cont. from p. 81)*

LC's Congressional Research, Copyright, Collections and Constituent services. Computers also are essential to the Law Library, outreach programs of Cultural Affairs and Library Management Services.

As much as the systems have grown, they have not kept pace with user demand during the past 10 years. The number of transactions has mushroomed—from 85,000 a day in 1980 to 315,000 a day in 1990—an increase of 370.5 percent—and the number of systems increased by 64 percent. Supporting budgets increased by only 9 percent, and support staff increased by only 7 percent during the same period.

ITS noted in its fiscal 1992 budget proposal that its staff must meet competing demands for resources: ITS has to maintain and upgrade the computer systems so heavily used by staff and patrons in the daily work of the Library, while at the same time it has to develop major software systems, to provide expanded access to the collections.

In its proposed FY '92 budget, ITS details the reasons for requesting $2.2 million to augment its staff of approximately 200 to build the information systems needed by the year 2000 as well as to meet the daily workload demands of the Library.

The effort to upgrade Library automation systems requires not only additional staff but more support services, such as training, new and rented software and hardware, and payment of telecommunications charges.

Optical Disk Program:

In addition, the Library is requesting a total of $1.4 million to support its optical disk program in FY '92. This reflects an increase of $631,200, including $66,200 for price-level increases; $415,000 for equipment, software and services; and $150,000 for an engineering study of telecommunications possibilities.

Since 1989 the Library has improved a pilot optical disk system that provides the Congressional Research Service (CRS) staff and patrons with quick and easy access to public policy documents. Full text images of documents, which are scanned and stored on optical disks, can be searched, viewed and retrieved in print format. "In 1992 we propose enhancing the optical disk system to support increased volumes of public policy materials and CRS Reports, and moving toward providing access to the CRS optical disk image data base to members [of Congress] and their staffs directly from workstations in their offices," the budget request states.

In support of these and other FY '92 budget requests, the Librarian said, "The basic long-range objective underlying all of these requests is to prepare the Library of Congress for actively supplying the Congress and the American people with needed knowledge and information rather than merely passively warehousing historical material."

—Gail Fineberg

Rare Book and Special Collections:
LC's Holdings Are Among World's Best

by Larry E. Sullivan

"The National Library deserves and demands the strongest rare book collection that it can possibly build."
—Lessing J. Rosenwald

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division is relatively new in the Library of Congress but its holdings rank among the world's finest rare and special collections.

The division dates from only 1927, but rare books have played a special part in the Library since the 19th century, when Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford gathered in his office a variety of rarities culled from the general collections. The large library of Americana and examples of early printing bought from collector Peter Force in 1867 provided the impetus for Spofford's initial efforts.

Spofford, who had been an antiquarian bookseller in his youth, began an active policy of acquiring more and more books from the rare book trade and also from donors. Joseph Meredith Toner's collection of American history and medicine, donated in 1882, was the Library's first major gift. When the Thomas Jefferson Building opened in 1897, it provided much more room to build the collections.

In 1906 the Library bought the 80,000-volume Russian collection of Gennadii Vasil'evich Yudin, which became the core of the Library's Slavic collections; the rarest 4,000 volumes were placed with the rare book holdings. Later, in 1925, the John Boyd Thacher bequest of 904 incunables, early Americana and French Revolution books and manuscripts greatly enlarged the division's holdings.

By the following year the Library had drawn up a list of "bibliographic monumenta" that it lacked. Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam realized the need to publicize these *desiderata* and published the list stating that he hoped "collectors who have had the relish of collecting, and a sufficient satisfaction in the possession, may come to consider the permanent disposition of their collections and may turn to the National Library as inevitably as the British collector turns to the British Museum."

Included in these *desiderata* were many classics of Americana, early printing and English literature. Since that time most of these materials have been added to the collections.

By 1927 the collection was large enough to warrant having its own quarters, so a Rare Book Room was opened on a deck housing about 25,000 items in the Jefferson Building. With the new space, the Library recognized the need for a curator of rare books. Previously these materials were kept in the Librarian's Office, and today one can still see the classification "Office" on the spines of many of those books. V. Valta Parma, the first curator of the Rare Book Room, as it was then called, was the first to systematically comb the Library's general collections for candidates for the rare collections.

Following the lead of Putnam, Parma established several categories of authors and subjects that he would segregate in the Rare Book Room. These included Bibles, Confederate states imprints, Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther and

(Cont. on p. 84)

In the stacks: Peter Van Wingen (left), assistant chief, and Larry Sullivan, division chief, discuss a volume from the collections. *Photos by Jim Higgins*

Rare Books *(Cont. from. p. 84)*
several others. Separately maintained collections form the basis of the division's 100 special collections today.

In 1930 Congress took a bold step and authorized the expenditure of $1 million to purchase 3,000 15th century books owned by Otto H. Vollbehr. This purchase included one of the Library's great *desiderata*, the Gutenberg Bible. The Library's copy is one of three known perfect copies of the Bible printed on vellum, one volume of which is kept on permanent display in the Library. Parma succeeded in amassing rare materials to such an extent that in 1934 the Rare Book Collection was installed in newly constructed quarters, where it remains today.

Rob Shields of the Rare Book reference staff, gives advice to photo researchers Ida Altman (left) and Lee Miller, who work on LC's Columbus Quincentenary project.

Arthur Houghton Jr. succeeded Parma in 1940 but stayed on as a part-time curator only until 1941. At that time, Mr. Houghton's assistant, Frederick Goff, was appointed acting chief and then in 1945, chief. By the time of Goff's appointment in 1941, the division's collections had grown to 127,000 volumes.

In 1943 the Library asked Lawrence Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, to help give direction to the division's collections. Wroth wrote a collecting policy that stated in part that the division would choose "books . . . without regard to form, because presumptively, they are the earliest, the most interesting, the most important to the scholar, or the finest editions . . . and to secure great books and to buttress them by lesser books."

Wroth also felt that "one of the characteristics of the successful collector is his ability to anticipate future trends of scholarly interest . . . and in the general principle that one function of a collecting institution is to anticipate the needs of those whom it serves." Wroth's broad view of a Rare Book division, that it should encompass scholarly special collections as well as individual rarities, was reflected 30 years later when the division officially changed its name to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

It was also in 1943 that the Library received its most valuable book collection. In that year Lessing J. Rosenwald deeded his magnificent illustrated book collection. It contained approximately 400 volumes in 1943 but by the time of Rosenwald's death in 1979 the total had reached 2,600. Heavily concentrated in 15th and 16th century illustrated books, it also had splendid examples of books produced up through the 20th century, as well as monuments of early printing, Americana, natural history and a superb assembly of William Blake.

Upon Goff's retirement, William Matheson succeeded him in 1972. Under Matheson the division began building up its modern American and British literature collections, an area underrepresented in the holdings. Matheson was also instrumental in obtaining the very significant gift of rare material relating to Sir William Drake, donated by Hans and Hanni Kraus.

To complement the Manuscript Division's collection of the papers of Freud, Matheson began building a significant collection of Freud first editions, association copies and the like. Not least, Matheson took over a division severely understaffed, added reference, processing and specialist staff and doubled the size of the division. He also took an interest in fine printing and built up an excellent private press collection. Matheson retired in 1987 and in 1989 this writer became the fifth chief in the division's history.

The division, collecting in all areas in which the Library in general collects, is a microcosm of the Library of Congress, with the primary purpose of serving the world of scholarship. The broad scope of the division's collecting policy is reflected in the fact that it has rarities of the greatest monetary value, such as the Gutenberg Bible and the Bay Psalm Book, along with such research materials as a 10,000-piece American extremism collection and thousands of dime novels and the highly important Harry Houdini Library of magic, spiritualism and the occult.

Today the division contains over 600,000 books, broadsides, pamphlets, theater playbills, title pages, prints, posters, photographs and medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. The holdings encompass nearly all eras and subjects and are strong in a wide variety of areas. In addition to the more than 100 special collections the division maintains separately, it has a large collection organized according to the Library of Congress classification system.

(Cont. on p. 86)

Reading Room Itself Tells a Story

It is fitting for a division so strong in research resources in Americana that the Reading Room is modeled after Philalphia's Independence Hall, the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and other notable events in American history. The arches, Doric columns and pilasters, and other elements of the room are inspired by similar elements in Independence Hall.

The two massive bronze doors that lead into the Reading Room carry designs related to the history of printing, including the printer's marks, names or other symbols (top left) of Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer of Mainz, Germany, who were associates of Johann Gutenberg in introducing printing to the Western World.

Below is the emblem of Geoffroy Tory, eminent French calligrapher and designer of many beautiful devotional books printed during the early 16th century. The panel at bottom left shows the printer's mark of William Morris, founder in 1891 of the Kelmscott Press in England, which had a profound influence on the revival of interest in fine printing.

On the right-hand door, the top panel contains the names of Juan Cromberger and Juan Pablos, founder and first printer, respectively, of the earliest press in the New World (established in Mexico City in 1539).

In the center panel are the names of Stephen Daye, who operated the first press in what was to become the United States (beginning at Cambridge, Mass., in 1639); William Nuthead, founder of the first presses in Maryland and Virginia; and William Bradford, who established the first presses in New York and Pennsylvania.

The last panel reproduces the device most usually associated with the name of the late Bruce Rogers, distinguished American designer of typefaces and books.

The Reading Room is undergoing renovation and is scheduled to reopen in June. Across from the room will be the Lessing J. Rosenwald Room, a newly renovated site for scholarly lectures, symposia, receptions and other activities sponsored by the division.

The Rare Book Reading Room, which is patterned after Independence Hall, will reopen this summer.

Rare Books *(Cont. from p. 84)*

One of the division's great strengths is incunabula. With the Peter Force and Otto Vollbehr purchases, the Thacher bequest, Rosenwald gift and other purchases, the division now has the largest collection of pre-1501 imprints in the Western Hemisphere.

The greatest strength of the division, however, lies in its Americana collections, whose holdings are unequaled. They date from the Columbus letter (1493) to the present and include almost 17,000 pre-1801 imprints, extensive Western Americana holdings, Confederate imprints, books written and printed by Benjamin Franklin, the Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson libraries and thousands of 19 century pamphlets.

Because of today's high prices for rare books, donors are the most important source. Although most of the division's greatest collections were donated, Rare Book and Special Collections builds its holdings in numerous other ways.

For example, the division has lists of selected American authors, children's books and private presses that go to the Copyright Office, which then sends us one of the two copies the Library receives. Many of the principal collections of the division have come through transfer from the general collections. The library of Thomas Jefferson, which the former president sold to Congress in 1815 and forms the nucleus of LC, is the most outstanding example.

The American literature collections grew considerably through combing the stacks. A major initiative, begun in 1980, was to transfer all pre-1801 imprints, in most languages, from the general collections to the division. To date this program has resulted in the addition of almost 43,000 volumes to the division.

Another example of a transfer from the general collections is the significant pamphlet collection of Afro-Americana accumulated by the historian and Library employee Daniel Alexander Payne Murray; a selection of this material is on display through March in the Library's Madison Buidling (see LC *Information Bulletin,* Feb. 11, 1991).

Although the Library has limited funds to purchase material, the division does buy a variety of outstanding *desiderata.* The purchase of some newly published works come out of current funds. These include classes of books that are not normally obtained through copyright deposit: graphic works, artists' books and the like. The division has one of the outstanding artists' book collections in the country and is continually purchasing additions to its holdings.

The division also makes selective retrospective purchases based on its collecting strengths. For example, an attempt is made to fill in most gaps in the Americana collection and other strong collections such as illustrated books.

As in any outstanding special collection library, the division depends on its staff for building its holdings. Rare Book and Special Collections adds on average 9,000 pieces per year. The specialists take on the major responsibility for developing the collections. The division currently has two Americana specialists, a European subject collections specialist and an illustrated book/fine printing specialist. In addition, the chief and the head of reader services recommend books and other materials for the collections.

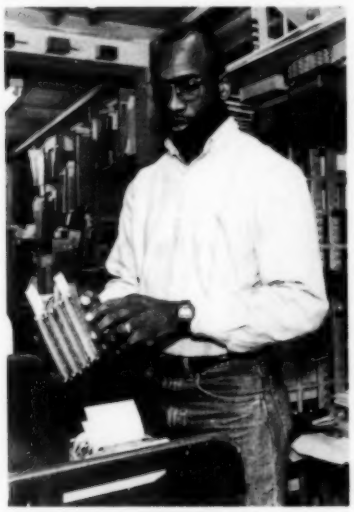
Not only are these recommending officers at the heart of the collection development effort but they also are charged with interpreting the collection through articles, books, bibliographies, exhibitions and other special projects. Over the years these specialists have turned out numerous works on such diverse subjects as magic, gastronomy and Thomas Jefferson's library.

Rare Book and Special Collections is currently producing a volume of 100 essays on 100 books in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Library's

great benefactor.

Reference services remain at the heart of the division's public activities and are the primary contact with the world of research. The division's reference staff of four accommodates about 4,000 readers per year, as well as answering hundreds of telephone and mail inquiries. Our public covers a broad range of readers, including academics, avocationists and amateurs.

The special collections, available to any reader over 18 with positive identification, are among the most accessible of any American or European institution. Though security and handling regulations are tight, as should be expected, the division's philosophy is that its materials are



Library technician Anthony Edwards reshelves books from the rare and special collections.

to be used.

Many people view rare books as museum objects only to be looked at rather than touched, and indeed, many of our materials are brought out for ceremonial occasions and for tours. However, the primary philosophy of the division is that it should provide service to readers, the same as the Library in general.

The processing of the thousdands of pieces added each year to the collections is divided between the Cataloging Directorate, which does copy general cataloging, and the division staff, which adds copy-specific points.

Not only does the division carry out reference, processing, acquisition and interpretive activities, but it is also very active in the Library's special projects. In September the division will sponsor a major exhibition to mark the centennary of Lessing J. Rosenwald, as well as publish the book of essays on the Rosenwald Collection. Materials from the division are used in Library exhibits and they are also requested for use in outside exhibits.

In 1990 the division lent 268 items for 21 Library exhibitions, and 54 rare book items were lent to nine outside institutions, including the Tokyo Museum of Western Art. In 1992 the division will cosponsor a symposium celebrating the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth.

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division offers most of the same services found in the rest of the Library. It is indeed a microcosm of the institution, and the breadth and depth of its collections reflect well Thomas Jefferson's statement on the Library that "I do not know that it contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from their collections; there is, in fact, no subject to which a member of Congress may not have occasion to refer."

Dr. Sullivan is chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Poets to Read At LC March 28

On Thursday, March 28, poets George Bradley and Susan Mitchell will read from their work in the Library's Montpelier Room. The reading, which will begin at 6 p.m., is presented under the auspices of the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund. Tickets are not required.

George Bradley was born in Roslyn, New York. His poems have appeared in many magazines, including *The New Yorker, Poetry, Grand Street, The New Republic, The Paris Review* and *Western Humanities Review*. His first book, *Terms to Be Met*, was selected by James Merrill for the Yale Younger Poets series in 1985 and published by Yale University Press the following year. A second volume, *Of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, will be published by Knopf in April.

Susan Mitchell grew up in New York City. Her poems have been published in *The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Best American Poetry 1990* and *The American Poetry Review; and The Water Inside the Water*, a collection of her poems, was published by the Wesleyan University Press in 1983. Ms. Mitchell has been a fellow of the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass., and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the state arts councils of Massachusetts, Illinois, Vermont and, this year, Florida.

Stephen Ostrow Visitors Program

A visitors program at Reed College in Portland, Ore., will be known as the Stephen E. Ostrow Visitors Program in honor of the chief of LC's Prints and Photographs Division. The trustees of the college recently announced the naming of this program, one of several supported by a $4.7 million gift from Portland philanthropists and longtime Reed supporters Sue and Edward Cooley and Betty and John Gray.

Mr. Ostrow served as an independent consultant to the college in developing programs aimed at bringing outstanding individuals to the campus whose subject matter enhances understanding of artistic, visual expression.

Chapbooks: Stories on a String

For more than a century, Brazilians have been reading and reciting *literatura de cordel.*

Translated as "stories on a string," these chapbooks (from the English term "cheap books," offered by itinerant peddlers, or "chapmen") are much like other "little books" available at one time or another throughout Europe and various parts of Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Joseph C. Hickerson and Ieda Wiarda examine some of the *cordel* in the archive's collection. *Photo by Reid Baker*

More than 3,000 *literatura de cordel* are in the collections of the American Folklife Center at the Library.

According to Joseph Hickerson, head of acquisitions, "The *cordel* are collected by the Library's office in Rio de Janeiro through the Hispanic Acquisitions Project. Three or four times a year we get a batch. They go back to the early 1970s. In 1988, we received 154 of them and in 1987, 105.

Lygia Ballantyne, the former field director in the Rio office, originally went out to markets and fairs in the northeast of Brazil and made large purchases, he added. "Then it got so that when the songwriters had a batch to sell, they would show up in the Rio office with them."

Ieda Siqueira Wiarda, Luso-Brazilian specialist in the Hispanic Division, explained that "*literatura de cordel* is a Portuguese expression; it refers to the cord or string that is stretched between two posts on which the booklets are hung for display and sale in the markets and at fairs. Brazilian poets called their stories *folhetos,* or pamphlets, until the early 1970s, when use of *literatura de cordel* became popular."

Dr. Wiarda described the average size of the *cordel* as "being 4¼ inches by 6¼ inches. Some are larger. They are usually eight pages long but can be 16, 32 or occasionally 64 pages long. The booklets are often hand-pressed by local presses and often have colored covers, although some are simply in black and white.

Traditionally, woodcuts have been used to illustrate the *cordel;* more recently photographs are used, although the photos are not well received because they do not look Brazilian. The Library of Congress is trying to acquire some of the woodcuts for the collection.

The *cordel* draw on a European chapbook tradition, with the exception that they are written almost exclusively in the poetic form. Written for adults and adolescents, but not for children, the *cordel* rely on the oral tradition and may provide news, entertainment or instruction. Common topics are elections, strikes, mythological figures, religious themes, adventure stories, humor, tales of love and suffering, and martyrdom. Local bandits, messianic leaders and political figures are recurring themes.

Traditionally, a *cordel* poet traveled from fair to fair by foot or on horseback and recited the *cordel* to an audience. Today, it is more common for the author to go by bus or pickup truck. Poets who read to an audience perform the *cordel* in a kind of chant. The audience may chant in unison or the writer may lead with the audience responding. Said Dr. Wiarda: "It is a kind of give-and-take, an interplay of the people with the leader. Leaders leave blank places in the story for the audience to come in."

She described *literatura de cordel* as "characteristic of northeast Brazil and the locations where people from the northeast have emigrated, such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Brasilia." It is not known precisely when the *cordel* came to northeast Brazil, but it is probable they came with the first settlers from Europe.

Many of the stories retold in the *cordel* can be found in some form on the Iberian Peninsula, but most draw more directly from Afro-Brazilian and less from Brazilian-Indian native sources. Dr. Wiarda explained that "until now the persons most interested in the *cordel* have been from two groups: the illiterate poor or persons with little education from northeast Brazil, and intellectuals primarily from universities who are interviewing and studying the authors."

Dr. Wiarda added that "the

The American Folklife Center has recently issued two finding aids that describe aspects of the Library's unique collections of folklife and ethnomusicology: *Brazil Recordings in the Archive of Folk Culture,* compiled by Elizabeth D. Eisenhood, Joseph C. Hickerson and Therese Langer and *Mexico Recordings in the Archive of Folk Culture,* compiled by Marjorie K. Crouch, Joseph C. Hickerson and Therese Langer. Both are available free from the American Folklife Center.

Library Publishes Paterson Lecture

Katherine Paterson, a widely acclaimed author of children's books who has twice won the prestigious Newbery Medal and the National Book Award, spoke at the Library of Congress during National Children's Book Week in November 1988 to help kick off the 1989 Year of the Young Reader.

Her lecture, "Stick to Reality and a Dream," has just been published by the Library in an oversized softcover format, illustrated with images from two books by Margaret Baker, pictures by Mary Baker.

In her presentation at the Library, Katherine Paterson urged the audience to examine critically the collective perception and treatment of children, charging that in this country and throughout the world, we may abuse children or pamper them, but we do not take children seriously. "Which is why," said Mrs. Paterson, "we call the school lunch program a frill and weapons necessities."

"Can you begin to imagine the difference it would make to the present and to the future of the world if we were to begin to take children seriously?" she asked.

"We can stick to the reality of budget deficits and cost cutting, indeed we must, but for our children's sakes, we must also stick to a dream. . . . Why is it when education budgets must be trimmed the first to go is the art teacher, then the music teacher, then the librarian? Basic education, my friends, is not simply computing and decoding, it is dreaming, it is imagining," Mrs. Paterson added.

Katherine Paterson was born in the Jiansgu province of China, the daughter of missionaries of the Southern Presbyterian church. Following the example of her parents, she decided to become a missionary to China herself, but went to Japan instead when China closed its doors to most foreigners. She soon learned to love Japan and its people, but when she was on home leave in the United States for a year of study, she met and married a young Presbyterian pastor, the Rev. John Paterson, and her life again took a different turn.

When Katherine Paterson turned to writing in the early 1970s, however, some of her early and most successful stories were based on feudal Japan. She is able to capture and hold the attention of young readers who may find themselves in difficult situations like the characters in her books, and her stories engage their imaginations and their emotions. Mrs. Paterson has also become a spokeswoman for the children's book and library communities; and she speaks out on behalf of the child and those who nurture the child.

"Stick to Reality and a Dream" can be ordered by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. Cite stock number 030-000-00224-5 when ordering. Check or money order in the amount of $3.25, which includes postage and handling, should be made payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Telephone orders to GPO may also be placed by calling (202) 783-3238 and charging to Visa, MasterCard or Choice; be prepared to give the card number and expiration date.

Illustration from "Stick to Reality and a Dream"

New LC Classification Poster Available

A new *LC Classification* poster is available from the Library's Cataloging Distribution Service. Colorful and sturdy, this poster can be placed on a counter or hung on the wall to show at a glance an abbreviated outline of LC classificaton subject classes and subclasses.

The 14-by-19-inch poster is suitable for use near on-line terminals or on reference desks to help users gain quick access to stacks and save time for staff.

The poster is $19 for North American customers or $21 for international customers and may be ordered from the Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, Customer Services Section, Washington, DC 20541; phone (202) 707-6100 or fax (202) 707-1334.

Brazilian government has recognized the *cordel* as an educational tool that can reach a group of people not ordinarily reached by education and is turning to the *cordel* authors for stories about such topics as health."

Mr. Hickerson related that "the richness of the collection at the Library was demonstrated a few weeks ago when a researcher was here from the University of Michigan doing a project comparing Brazilian bandits with Billy the Kid. He leafed through the entire collection and pulled out 'bandit,' 'political figure' and 'political' literature. Now these portions of the collection are organized."

The *cordel* has become a serious subject of academic study. Collecting the materials are several centers in Brazil. —*Jean E. Tucker*

MEETINGS

Georgette M. Dorn, specialist in Hispanic culture in the Hispanic Division, was named last December to the 1991 Waldo J. Leland Book Prize committee of the American Historical Association. The prize is awarded every five years for an outstanding reference tool in the field of history. On Jan. 24 Dr. Dorn gave a presentation at the Americas Society in New York on "The Hispanic Collections of the Library of Congress: From Thomas Jefferson to CD-ROM."

Congress of Finno-Ugrists

Kenneth E. Nyirady, technical information specialist in the European Division, read two papers at the sixth International Congress of Finno-Ugrists in Debrecen, Hungary, Aug. 27–Sept. 1. His first presentation, "Georgii Lytkin and the Problems of Teaching Russian and Komi to Komi Students," analyzed the linguistic and political problems that Komi linguist Georgii Lytkin (1835–1906) faced in the 1880s while attempting to introduce Komi-language instruction into schools attended by Komi students.

Mr. Nyirady's other presentation, "The Development of the Finno-Ugrian Collections at the Library of Congress Since 1985," was part of the special congress session "A Symposium on the Finno-Ugrian Collection at the Library of Congress."

Dr. Elemer Bako, former LC Finno-Ugrian area specialist, organized this session and also presented a paper, as did Lloyd Gedra, a former subject cataloger at LC.

While in Hungary, Mr. Nyirady visited LC exchange partners in Budapest, Debrecen and Kecskemet and acquired samples of new periodicals for the Library's collections.

Overseas Field Directors Meet in Williamsburg

The Overseas Operations Division hosted a conference, the seventh in a series, for its overseas office field directors in Williamsburg, Va. Nov. 12–16.

Attending were **Smith Richardson** (Rio de Janeiro), **Will Tuchrello** (Cairo), **Ruth Thomas** (Nairobi), **Helen Poe** (Karachi), **Lygia Ballantyne** and **Alice Kniskern** (New Delhi) and **Gene Smith** (Jakarta), plus **Henriette D. Avram,** associate librarian for Collections Services; **Mary Price,** director of Acquisitions; **Lucia Rather,** then director of Cataloging; Overseas Operations Division staffers and other LC staffers.

The agenda was overseen by **Chris Filstrup,** chief of the Overseas Operations Division, the field office directors, and senior staff from Washington. Field office management and budgeting, participant programs, staff development, reorganization, cataloging, audit issues and other topics were discussed. Tony Pierce of the Automated Planning and Liaison Office spoke on field office automation issues.

As the field offices develop in complexity, in their widely different international environments, issues of coordination and uniformity of practice become of increasing importance, as do budgetary considerations. The seventh field directors's conference permitted these questions to be addressed effectively, with ample opportunity for discussion and decisionmaking.

International Conference on Braille

The Spanish National Organization of the Blind hosted the International Conference on Braille, sponsored by the European Blind Union Commission on Access to Culture and Information in Madrid on Nov. 12–16.

Fourteen European countries, Canada, the United States, Japan, Zambia, South Africa, Jordan and Uruguay were represented. Eighty-six persons participated.

The United States was represented by Robert Winn, president of the Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, Ill., and **Claudell Stocker,** head, Braille Development Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH), Library of Congress. A paper, "Teaching Volunteer Braille Transcribing in the United States," by Mrs. Stocker, was circulated with the conference proceedings.

Subjects, presented in seminar fashion, addressed the use of braille, aspects of teaching braille and the use of new technologies in braille production.

The North American representatives (Canada and the United States) served more as observers than participants because most of the problems presented were unique to Europe, such as the need to create a European braille authority in the face of so many languages requiring different braille codes. Each day there was opportunity to share ideas and various programs.

The people from the United Kingdom were fascinated with the prospect of the NLS/BPH demonstration project "Braille on Demand" being conducted at the Florida regional library. The Year of Literacy was much discussed, and librarians attending were interested in hearing about U.S. regional librarians' participation in Partner programs, in which blind braille readers are recruited to be paired with blind persons wishing to learn braille or to improve their braille skills.

A committee was formed to draft recommendations from the conference proceedings. On the last day, 18 recommendations were presented and approved by the body of the conference. The Braille Authority of North America, American braille producers and educators would be interested in the following:

☐ Participants urge the World Blind Union to establish a world braille authority to standardize braille codes and publishing systems and advise on other aspects concerning braille.

☐ The exchange of braille publications and materials should be actively promoted, including computer data carriers.

☐ Participants welcome technological developments aimed at facilitating access to print, but they emphasize that braille remains the natural medium for blind persons to attain maximum independence.

☐ Effective strategies should be put into action to encourage all potential users of the braille system—children, young people, adults—so they can fully benefit from it.

☐ Teachers of braille, whether blind or sighted, should have a sound knowledge of the braille system, and teaching methods should be further developed to meet the requirements of the different groups.

☐ When transcribing books, maximum respect for the inkprint original should be exercised, but, when appropriate, the necessary adaptation should be introduced to make the contents intelligible to tactile readers.

☐ Publishing houses should ensure that they produce the highest quality of brazille for all educational and professional works. Quantity and speed of production should be the leading criteria for other reading materials.

☐ Brazille literacy is the best means of information for visually impaired persons, and books should be spared to halt the decline of braille readers.

NACO Training at LC

This past fall the National Coordinated Cataloging Operations (NACO) marked a milestone in the expansion of the authorities application of the Linked Systems Project (LSP). Five representatives from four libraries spent a week in training last September at the Library. The four trainees represented the last of the participating NACO libraries to be phased into LSP.

The trainees were Don Burkett, New York State Library; Harold Chambers, Montana State Library; Sally Ensor, North Carolina State Library; Noelle Van Pulis, Ohio State University; and Wess Wessling, North Carolina State Library.

The LC senior descriptive catalogers who provided the cataloging aspects of the training were: **Ann Della Porta, Joe Kaczorowski, Leela Lulla, David Nelson** and **Irmgard Nolan.** Karen Calhoun, an OCLC key trainer, taught OCLC-specific procedures, and **Veronica Gillespie,** MARC conversion specialist, taught content designation and MARC tagging. **Les Vogel,** NACO's assistant coordinator for cataloging, was responsible for the workflow aspect of LSP and the coordination among the various units involved.

Overall coordinators for LSP training at the Library are: **Suzanne Liggett,** coordinator, NACO; **Les Vogel** and **Oxana Horodecka,** assistant coordinators, NACO; **Larry Dixson,** Network Development and MARC Standards Office; and **Veronica Gillespie.**

With 37 institutions contributing authority records via LSP, the current training of NACO participants has been completed. Prior to receiving this training, the majority of NACO participants contributed their records via manually prepared paper forms that were then rekeyed at LC. The authorities application of LSP, which is a computer-to-computer link for on-line contribution and distribution of authority records, has resulted in a more rapid availability of authority records to all users and made possible the updating of authority records by NACO participants.

Through the end of fiscal 1990 the following were contributed via LSP by NACO participants:

☐ 78,723 new name authorities; ☐ 812 new series authorities; ☐ 16,531 name authority changes; ☐ 267 series authority changes.

CNLIA Semiannual Gathering

The Council f National Library and Information Associations held its semiannual meeting in New York City Dec. 7. One of the new projects of CNLIA is a speakers bureau. A brochure listing 20 individuals available for addressing workshops and conferences on library-related topics has been prepared and may be secured from its headquarters at 1700 18th Street, NW, Suite B-1, Washington, DC 20009.

A survey of member organizations' practices in planning and arranging their annual conventions and other conferences is continuing. Once completed, this should be helpful to member associations in using the experience of other associations similarly situated.

The program dealt with "Library Education and Professional Development: The Association's Role." Rhoda Garoogin, dean of the School of Library and Information Science, Pratt Institute, spoke on accreditation of librarians serving in the field who are not graduates of library schools. Programs have to be tailor-made to the needs of the individuals involved to achieve good results, she said.

Kathy Hackl of the Special Libraries Association recounted the various professional development programs her organization has been sponsoring over the years. Diane Thomson of the Medical Library Association described the purpose of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, an activity of her association, which through its various levels of membership, recognizes the achievements of medical librarians. Jack Robertson, fine arts librarian, University of Virginia, and representative of the Art Libraries of North America (ARLIS/NA), Professional Development Committee, described the urgent need to combine subject expertise and library training, particularly important in his specialty. For this purpose his association has published a survey of courses and fellowships in fine arts and visual resources at library schools in the United States and Canada.

Theodore Wiener, Judaica cataloger in the Subject Cataloging Division, attended as councilor for the Association of Jewish Libraries.

PUBLICATIONS

A comprehensive "how to" manual for cataloging and inventory of newspaper collections is available from the Cataloging Distribution Service. Serving as an instruction manual and cataloging tool, *The Newspaper Cataloging and Union Listing Manual* has the information necessary for staff training and creating fully standardized cataloging records for newspapers.

Prepared by Todd Butler, formerly of the Serial Record Division, the manual conforms to guidelines and regulations set forth for participants in the United States Newspaper Program.

The guidelines conform to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules,* second edition, 1988 revision; to *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and *Subject Cataloging Manual;* the *CONSER Editing Guide;* and to the American National Standards for Holdings Statements at the Summary Level, ANSI Z39.42. Screen displays are based upon the Online Computer Library Center Inc. (OCLC) screen displays.

The Newspaper Cataloging and Union Listing Manual is available for $27 for North American customers or $29 for international customers.

Cataloging Rare Serials

Update No. 7 to *CONSER Editing Guide* (the most comprehensive tool available for cataloging serials on-line) has just been published by the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service. This latest update is the first of two for the 1991 subscription year. All updates are necessary for professionals who wish to have a fully current *CONSER Editing Guide.*

Prepared by the Library's Serial Record Division, Update No. 7 contains special instructions for tagging records for rare serials and provides all of the data elements defined for rare serials cataloging as well as a new chart that instructs catalogers in their use. A chapter on "CONSER Management Statistics" includes information about OCLC billing and credits and instructions on how statistics are used and how statistics sheets should be filled out.

Information on the National Library of Canada's cataloging is given along with information about how these records are used with CONSER.

The 1991 subscription (which includes two updates) is $45 for North America customers and $50 for international customers. Updates 1-6 may be ordered at a package price of $85 North America and $90 international.

All these publications can be ordered from the Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, Customer Services Section, Washington, DC 20541; phone: (202) 707-6100; fax: (202) 707-1334.

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